CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1949

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Members of the Public Health Committee

Chairman: Mr. Councillor A. Hampton

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Councillor E. Jones

Mr. Councillor A. Hampton, Jnr.

Mr. Councillor J. James

Mrs. Councillor M. Hotchkiss

Mr. Councillor F. Rowley

Mr. Councillor T. Whitehouse

Mr. Councillor N. I. Hollowood

Mr. Councillor F. Turner

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:
R. Webster, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.&H.
(appointed April, 1949)

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Shops Act Inspector:
Fred Turner, C.R.S.I., Certificate of Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: Joseph Ball, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitors

Mrs. D. Robinson, C.M.B., State Registered Nurse.

Mrs. S. Leach, S.R.N.

Mrs. M. E. Vaughan, S.R.N.

Mrs. H. M. Thomson, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N., H.V.

Miss M. Brennan, S.R.N.

Part-Time Officers

Oculist: G F. Haycraft, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Orthopaedic Surgeon: Newton Heath, F.R.C.S.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon: W. L. Thomas, F.R.C.S., D.L.O.

Orthopaedic Masseuse: Miss F. M. Barnes, C.S.M.M.G.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the people of the Urban District of Cannock for the year 1949.

This was the first complete year of working under the National Health Service Act.

The information set out in the Report relating to Welfare Centres, Ante-natal Clinics, Tuberculosis, and so forth, is, strictly speaking, the concern of other authorities.

Nevertheless, such items are of great interest, and no Report on the health of the people would be complete without their inclusion.

The Birth Rate was somewhat lower at 19.49 than in the past few years, but still remains above the average for the country.

Continuing the favourable trend of recent years, the Infant Mortality Rate was the lowest ever recorded in Cannock.

There were no Maternal Deaths.

Ante-natal Clinics and Infant Welfare Clinics have been well attended.

Such figures as are now being obtained in this essentially working-class community were obtained, prior to the war, only in specially favoured communities. There is no doubt that they provide evidence of a real advance in the health and general well-being of the people of Cannock.

The General Death Rate at 11.03 per thousand is below that for the country as a whole.

The prevailing lack of sanatorium accommodation for cases of Tuberculosis has meant that many infectious cases have had to stay at home, in contact with their families and often with the general public.

It is to the credit of the Urban District Council that, in the face of great housing difficulties, they have afforded the means of home isolation for such infectious cases of Tuberculosis.

Measles was unduly prevalent, but apart therefrom there was no epidemic of Infectious Disease.

The Home Help Service has expanded considerably. Eighteen Home Helps were employed. They assisted 42 households, and worked a total of 12,503 hours.

The water supply has been subjected to continuous supervision and sampling, and a high standard of purity and safety has been maintained.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to thank members of the Public Health Committee for their kind co-operation and advice, and the staff of the Public Health Department for loyal service throughout the year.

I am, Your obedient servant,

R. WEBSTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Area of the district (excluding area covered by water)	acres 8,155
Total Population at all ages at 1931 Census ...	35,300
Registrar-General's estimate of population to middle of the year	40,890
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1948	£164,172
Product of Penny Rate	£652
Nett Births	797
Birth Rate (live and still-births) per 1,000 of estimated population	19.49
Nett Deaths allocated to the district—	
Under one year of age	29
At all ages	451
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) ...	36.3
Death Rates (at all ages)	11.03
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of year	10,245

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Unemployment figures for the year were as follows:—

Date	Males		Females		Total
	18 and over	under 18	18 and over	under 18	
14-3-49	74	7	49	7	137
13-6-49	105	13	75	7	200
12-9-49	98	17	73	22	210
5-12-49	107	8	70	8	193

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M	F
Live Births, legitimate	750	400	350
Live Births, illegitimate	26	14	12
Still Births, legitimate	17	8	9
Still Births, illegitimate	4	2	2

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (live and still births)	19.49
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (live births)	19.00
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (live births)	16.7
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (still births)	0.39
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (still births) ...	0.51

	Total	M	F
Total Deaths	451	239	212

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.03
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7
Area comparability factor	1.16

Maternal Mortality

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births) Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Puerperal Sepsis	—	0.00	0.11
Others	—	0.00	0.71
Total ...	—	0.00	0.82

Infant Mortality

	Actual Deaths	Cannock Rate	England & Wales Rate
Deaths under one year of age :—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	29	36.3	32
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	27	36.0	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	2	77.0	—

DEATHS AT ALL AGES

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 of estimated population Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Cancer	66	1.61	—
Measles	2	0.04	—
Whooping Cough	—	0.00	0.01
Scarlet Fever	—	0.00	—
Diphtheria	—	0.00	0.00
Influenza	2	0.04	0.15
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) per 1,000 live births	5	0.12	3.0

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS

Ante-Natal Visits	254
Primary visits to infants	771
Re-visits to infants	2,979

WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Sessions held	Primary Attendances of Infants Under 1 year	1—5 years	Total Attendances Under 1 year	1—5 years
Cannock	48	132	24	1,264	286
Hednesford	50	143	32	1,972	378
Chadsmoor	50	117	26	1,556	294
Wimblebury	25	56	9	596	142
Heath Hayes	25	52	29	637	395
Totals	198	500	120	6,025	1,495

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Four Ante-Natal Clinics are now held—one at Hednesford every Thursday morning, one at Cannock every Tuesday afternoon, one at Chadsmoor every Friday morning, and one at Wimblebury Thursdays fortnightly.

	Hednesford	Chadsmoor	Cannock	Wimblebury	Total
Primary Attendances ...	142	110	165	34	451
Re-attendances ...	636	435	796	91	1958
Total Attendances ...	778	545	961	125	2409
No. of Sessions ...	51	50	48	25	174
Aver. No. per Session	15	11	20	6	—

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

No cases were notified.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no cases.

INFANT MORTALITY

The main causes of death of children under one year of age were: Premature birth, 8; Congenital malformations and birth injuries, 9; Gastro Enteritis, 5; Broncho-Pneumonia, 5; Asphyxia, 2.

The Birth Rates, Infant Mortality Rates (I.M.R.) and Maternal Mortality Rates (M.M.R.) for the past ten years were as follows:—

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Birth Rates	18.4	19.3	21.44	21.15	21.38	20.55	21.72	23.69	22.49	19.49
I.M. Rates	65.9	75.4	52.0	44.27	54.23	37.91	61.86	50.05	39.8	36.3
M.M. Rates	2.16	1.27	8.75	1.27	6.14	2.61	2.4	0.00	2.19	0.00

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

In conjunction with other authorities, arrangements have been made with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare, who continue to deal with illegitimate children and their mothers.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

There were no cases notified.

SECTION C—Infectious Diseases

DIPHTHERIA

One case was notified, compared with four in the previous year. This case was removed to hospital.

SCARLET FEVER

111 cases were notified, compared with 105 in the previous year. 28 were removed to hospital, and there were no fatal cases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS

No cases were notified. There was one fatal case.

POLIOMYELITIS

Four cases were notified. There were no fatal cases.

ENTERIC FEVER

No cases of enteric fever were notified.

PNEUMONIA

Nineteen cases of primary pneumonia were notified. There were 15 deaths from all types of pneumonia.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

872 cases of measles were notified, with two fatal cases.
There were 61 cases of Whooping Cough, with no fatal case.

CANCER

There were 66 deaths from Cancer, 20 more than in the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases Notified				Total	Deaths				Total
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0—1	...	...	...	...	..	...		...	..	..
1—5	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	1	2
5—15	2	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	...
15—25	7	4	...	...	11	1	..	...	1	2
25—35	5	...	...	...	5	5	1	...	...	6
35—45	4	3	...	...	7	1	2	...	...	3
45—55	4	1	...	...	5	2		...	...	2
55—65	1	1	...	..	2	1		...	...	1
65 & up	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
Total	25	9	1	2	37	10	4	1	2	17

There were 14 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, four more than in the previous year, and three from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The incidence of the pulmonary and non-pulmonary locations of the disease is set out below :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1948	18	16	7	2
1949	25	9	1	2

Notices of admission to Institutions were received as follows:

The Limes, Himley Sanatorium	1
Prestwood Sanatorium	2
Groundslow Sanatorium	1
Newcastle Isolation Hospital	1
Edge View, Kinver Sanatorium	1

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1949

		Males	Females
1.	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	10	4
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	2
8.	Syphilitic	—	2
9.	Influenza	1	1
10.	Measles	—	2
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph (M) Uterus (F)	3	2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	7
15.	Cancer of Breast	—	9
16.	Cancer of all other sites	29	16
17.	Diabetes	1	—
18.	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	30	41
19.	Heart Disease	51	46
20.	Other disease of Circ. System	10	9
21.	Bronchitis	11	8
22.	Pneumonia	12	3
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	5	3
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	11	2
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	4
26.	Appendicitis	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	8	4
28.	Nephritis	3	9
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31.	Premature Births	4	4
32.	Congenital Malformation, birth inj., infant dis.	6	3
33.	Suicide	4	2
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	2	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	9	2
36.	All other causes	21	24
	Totals ...	239	212

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban District Council

Public Health Department,
Church Street,
Cannock, Staffs.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you a report of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1949.

NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH

Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals	108
Insufficient water closets and drains	122
Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter ...	14
Dilapidated sheds	6
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	25
Dirty yards	24
Dirty dwelling houses	11
Dirty bedding	6
Dwelling houses needing repair	320
Dwelling houses overcrowded	25
Number of nuisances and other matters reported during the year	319

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

3	Water closets substituted for 3 Pail Closets.
2	Additional water closets provided.
3	Pail closets dispensed with.
3	New water closet floors.
2	New water closet roofs.
51	Water closets put in order.
16	New water closet pans.
16	New water closet seats.
10	New water closet flushing cisterns.
19	Water closet flushing cisterns repaired.
6	Choked water closets opened.
66	Choked drains opened.

62	Yards of new drains on six premises.
10	Drains repaired.
605	Dustbins substituted for worn-out dustbins.
7	New gullies and grids provided.
3	Gullies provided with benching.
8	Drain inspection chambers rebuilt.
9	New drain inspection chambers constructed.
19	New drain inspection chamber covers provided.
7	Drain ventilating shafts repaired.
10	New water cisterns provided.
1	New connection to sewer.
1	Cesspool dispensed with.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

1.—The number and nature of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors

Inspection of Dwelling Houses:—	
(1) Housing inspections	165
(2) District inspections	5642
Inspection of Bakehouses	68
,, ,, Cowsheds	175
,, ,, Dairies	200
,, ,, Milk Shops	40
,, ,, Milk Bars	43
,, ,, Milk Floats	7
,, ,, Restaurant Kitchens	48
,, ,, Fried Fish Shops	53
,, ,, Shops	330
,, ,, Meat Shops	698
,, ,, Grocers Shops	227
,, ,, Meat Distribution Centre	250
,, ,, Markets	273
,, ,, Factories	271
,, ,, Knacker's Yard	52
,, ,, Public Conveniences	104
,, ,, Works for abatement of nuisances	2018
,, ,, Works for abatement of housing repairs ...	310
,, ,, Ice-cream premises	278
,, ,, Complaints investigated	203
,, ,, Water courses	30
,, ,, Tips	12
,, ,, Living Vans	24
,, ,, Sewage Disposal Works	9

Inspection of Pithead Baths	12
,, ,, Spoilbanks	41
,, ,, Canal Boats—Wharves	9
,, ,, Camping Grounds	3
,, ,, Mortuaries	16
,, ,, Making-up Rooms (Food)	276
,, ,, Canteens, Cafés, etc.	136
,, ,, Premises under Rats & Mice Destruction Act	612
,, ,, Fishmongers Premises	112
,, ,, Meat Stalls	208
,, ,, Offices	41

2.—The number of Notices served during the year

Informal	272
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	26
Statutory, Housing Act, 1936, Section 66	21

3.—Results of Service

Number of Nuisances abated	237
Notices not complied with	35

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

	End of 1948	End of 1949
Water Closets	11,472	11,809
Dustbins	9,915	10,130
Privies	1	1
Privy Ashpits	1	1
Privy Pans	155	152
Cesspools	169	169

CESSPOOLS

The number of cesspools now existing is 169. These are situated at properties where there is no sewer available.

The Council employ an up-to-date cesspool and gully emptier for removing the contents of the cesspools.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

The public conveniences in the area are well maintained and kept in clean condition. An employee of the Department is engaged in washing down the gent's conveniences daily, and the ladies' conveniences are kept exceedingly clean by the lady attendants.

There are still certain persons who seem to delight in fouling the conveniences at which there is no attendant. Damage is also caused by persons placing foreign matter in the coin boxes, namely, pieces of brass and lead, bus tickets and matches.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The whole of the sanitary accommodation is on the water carriage system, except those parts of the area where no sewer is existing. In these latter parts there are several water closets which discharge into cesspools. There are still a certain number of pail closets and chemical closets; these are also in the area where no sewer is available.

The provision of dustbins is working very satisfactorily under the scheme in accordance with Section 75, Sub-Section 3, of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the majority of property owners are now taking advantage of the scheme. During the year the Council raised the dustbin charge from 2/6 to 4/- per annum following receipt of the Local Authority (Charges for Dustbins) Order, 1949.

HOUSING

23 Houses were built by private enterprise.
148 Houses were built by the local authority.
44 Permanent bungalows were erected by the local authority.

FITNESS OF HOUSES

One hundred and sixty-five houses were inspected; all were found to be damp, three dirty and three overcrowded.

The number of persons per house was 3.9, with 1.07 rooms per person, or 651 persons to 696 rooms (303 living rooms and 393 sleeping rooms).

OVERCROWDING

No. of cases on books at the end of 1949	48
No. of cases abated—	
From Council Houses	2
From Private Houses	22
No. of new cases reported to Medical Officer of Health during 1949	25
No. of cases dealt with	49

HOUSES IMPROVED

Roofs repaired	99
Chimneys repaired	14
Houses re-spouted	62
Houses re-pointed, roughcast or cemented	27
Walls and ceilings repaired	366
New ceilings	28
New quarry and concrete floors	6
Quarry, brick and concrete floors repaired	15
New wood floors	1
Wood floors repaired	26
New sub-floor ventilators	2
New firegrates fitted or firegrates repaired	44
New windows and windows repaired	75
New sashcords, catches, fasteners, etc.	74
New doors fitted and doors repaired	40
Handrails fitted	4
Dangerous stair treads renewed	2
Bedrooms ventilated (airbricks fixed)	5
Foodstores ventilated and lighted	1
New sinks and sinks repaired	36
New coppers and coppers repaired	36
Hot water systems provided or put in order	1
Burst pipes repaired	11
Yards paved and paving repaired	13
Sculleries repaired and rebuilt	14

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	437
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	750
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	165
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	356
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	157
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	280

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	189

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By local authority in default of Owners ...	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	26

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners	20
(b) By local authority in default of Owners ...	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

UNFIT HOUSES

Number Demolished:—

Individual Unfits	3
Clearance Orders	13
Road Widening	2
Housing Site	1
Voluntary	1

Situation of Houses Demolished

St. Paul's Ward:—	
Cottage, Mill Green, Cannock ...	Road Improvements.
St. Luke's Ward:—	
78 Dartmouth Avenue, Cannock ...	Demolition Order.
66, 68, 70, 72 Mill Street, Cannock ...	Clearance Order.
54b Walsall Road, Cannock	Road Improvements.
54c Walsall Road, Cannock	Demolition Order.
St. Aidan's Ward:—	
148 Old Fallow Road, Cannock ...	Voluntary.

St. John's Ward :—	
38 Cannock Road, Heath Hayes ...	Demolition Order.
50, 52, 54, 56, 58 John Street, Wimblebury	Clearance Order.
2, 4, 6, 8 Stafford Street, Heath Hayes	Clearance Order.
St. Mark's Ward :—	
Living Van, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford	Housing Site.

Situation of Houses Represented for Demolition

St. Luke's Ward :—
73 and 75 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock.
St. Peter's Ward :—
Wood Cottage, Rawnsley.

Clearance Areas Represented

During the year one Clearance Area was represented and dealt with by the making of the following Order :—

	Area sq. yds.	No. of Houses	No. of Persons
St. Chad's Ward :—			
Cannock (Burgoyne Street, Hightown, Hednesford) (No. 74) Clearance Order, 1949	1269	7	34

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1920 TO 1939
Section 2 (2) of Act of 1920

Eleven applications were received from tenants under the above-mentioned Acts, and each case was considered in a report submitted. Nine certificates were granted.

Following completion of repair work, and owners applications for withdrawal, six certificates were cancelled during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919 INFESTATION ORDER, 1943

During the year 1949 the following results were obtained by our Rodent Operator :—

Poison baits laid	1057
Complete poison takes	97
Partial poison takes	771
Dead rats found	541
Premises dealt with by Cymag and Rockets ...	6
Rats found	12

164 sewer manholes were treated. There were six good takes; 158 manholes were clear.

BLOCK SURVEYS

38 Block Surveys were carried out during the year, and in these surveys the following premises were dealt with :—

Dwelling Houses	49
Business Premises	26
School Premises	7
Council Premises	15
Brook Courses	3

LIVING VANS AND TENTS

A survey was made during the year of all the living vans and tents within the area, and it was found that there were 12 vans and two tents. Of these, two vans and one tent are included in a confirmed Clearance Order.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

	Dec., 1949
Licensed Slaughterhouses	24
Visits to Meat Shops	698

TOTAL—UNSOUND FOOD

	Weight lbs.
Bovines—Other Diseases	37
Pigs—Tuberculosis	597
Pigs—Other Diseases	279
Sheep—Other Diseases	4½
Bread	16
Fish	798
Bacon	366½
Butter	112
Cheese	573
Sausage	56
Black Pudding	56
Imported Fowl	80
Sultanas	18
Rabbits	383
Liquid Frozen Eggs	280
Cooking Fats	70
Tea	4½
Margarine	24
Cakes	56
Tinned and Bottled Food	1416
Cauliflowers	825
Tomatoes	1800
Milk (358¾ gallons)	3693
Total	11544½

Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
5	3	0	8½

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

The number of slaughterhouses, butchers' shops and meat stalls in the area is as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	24
Butchers' Shops	42
Meat Stalls	9

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT SHOPS AND MEAT VANS

There are only five slaughterhouses out of a total of 24 where slaughtering takes place; the slaughterhouses are used for the slaughter of pigs from cottagers or persons who feed pigs for their own consumption. These premises are visited at all times when slaughtering is taking place.

The meat which is provided by the Ministry of Food is sent to the Meat Distribution Centre at Cannock from the Government slaughterhouse at Walsall, all meat being conveyed in modern ventilated vans and distributed to the butchers' shops by the same vehicles.

All meat shops and butchers' stalls on the markets are visited frequently, also meat making-up rooms at butchers' premises. It has been necessary to ask certain butchers to make improvements to the premises.

The delivery of meat from butchers' shops to the customers is coming more into prominence, and these vans are also inspected. These have been found to be clean, and the straps and buckets have been satisfactory as regards condition and cleanliness.

PIGS SLAUGHTERED FOR COTTAGERS

497 carcases were inspected—364 on owners' premises and 133 at slaughterhouses. Four carcases and certain parts of other pigs were found to be unfit for human consumption. In all cases the owners readily agreed to surrender the unsound meat and offals after having the legal position explained to them.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE ERECTION OF PIGSTIES

During the year 37 applications were received, from occupiers of premises, for permission to erect pigsties; 25 were granted and 12 were not granted. Those at rear of Council houses have to be erected according to a plan approved by the Council. It is most desirable that all pigsties should be of a uniform type and erected of suitable and approved materials.

TABLE FROM CIRCULAR No. 1650

No records are kept in regard to this circular, because no slaughterhouses are used for the slaughter of animals intended for sale for human consumption.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Three new licences were granted to persons employed in the meat trade, and 77 licences were renewed during the year for persons to stun animals intended for human consumption.

KNACKER'S YARD

These premises are visited regularly. They are found to be kept clean and no nuisances have been found.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS AND UNDER REGULAR INSPECTION

Cowsheds	49
Dairies and Milk Shops	71
Purveyors of Milk from other districts selling milk in this area	16
Bakehouses	21
Slaughterhouses	24
Butchers' Shops	42
Meat Stalls	9
Fried Fish Shops	53
Tents, Vans and Sheds	13
Mortuaries	2
Knacker's Yard	1
Factories	112

CANAL BOATS

The wharves at the various collieries in the area have been visited, but no registered boats have been found.

The transport of coal is now chiefly by rail or road.

FISH FRIERS

The number of fish friers in the area is now 53. The premises come in for constant supervision and all have been found to be clean. In several shops, wash-basins have been provided, hot and cold water laid on, and soap and towels put into use. Each shop in the area has a modern stove.

The part of the premises where fish is cleansed and potatoes washed have been found to be clean and satisfactory, except in one case; this occupier was called upon to carry out improvements.

CANTEENS, RESTAURANTS ETC.

These premises are visited regularly and observations are made on the cleanliness of the premises, washing facilities and sanitary accommodation, and the condition of cups, saucers, plates and other utensils used.

The attention of the person responsible is drawn to any faulty equipment (chipped cups, glasses, etc.), and we ask for same to be replaced with new, sound articles.

In several of these places improvements have been carried out, such as provision of satisfactory lighting and ventilation to the kitchens, and additional washing facilities and sanitary accommodation.

The number of these premises in the area are as follows:—

Canteens	41
Cafés	13
Restaurants (Private Ownership) ...	3
Restaurants (Civic)	2
Tea Rooms	3
Hotel Kitchens	2
Total ...	64

PUBLIC HOUSES

There are 43 public houses in the area. During the year a survey was made at every licensed house in the area.

Improvements were asked for, by letter to the various Brewery Companies, and I am glad to report that they responded to our request.

The improvements asked for were: providing and fixing flushing apparatus to urinals, with a constant supply of water; in certain cases new conveniences were provided for both sexes where existing conditions were unsatisfactory; the provision of sufficient and suitable washing accommodation for glasses and the installation of hot and cold water and wash-basins; repairs to floors and lime-washing walls in cellars where liquid refreshments are kept; decoration of rooms used by the public.

These premises are visited at regular intervals, and they are found to be kept clean and well maintained.

DISINFESTATION

The Housing Department notify the names and addresses of all selected applicants for Council houses. 227 premises were visited by the Sanitary Inspectors to ascertain whether disinfestation of furniture, furnishings, etc., was necessary before the persons concerned moved into the Council house.

In 49 cases it was found necessary to treat the furniture, furnishings and bedding of selected applicants. In 48 cases the furniture was disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas, and the bedding and soft furnishings were dealt with by means of steam disinfection. For the remaining case the furniture was treated with an insecticidal fluid and the soft furnishings were steam disinfected. The houses from which the people were rehoused were dealt with by spraying with an insecticidal fluid.

The whole of this work was carried out by the staff of the Public Health (Sanitary) Department.

STEAM DISINFECTOR

The steam disinfector at the Council's Depot was used for disinfecting 1,099 articles.

Number of days disinfector in use 78

WATER

All dwelling houses, factories, etc., in the area are supplied with water by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company—with the exception of one house which obtains its water supply from a well, a sample of which proved unsatisfactory. A demolition order has been made on this house, and the occupier has been advised to boil all water before use.

During the year five samples of water, taken from different points in the area, were submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. All proved satisfactory except one.

The following is a sample report of South Staffordshire water taken and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Stafford :—

	PARTS PER 100,000
Chemical :—	
Total solid matter dried at 212° F	29.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0004
Albuminoid	0.0040
Nitric Nitrogen	0.34
Chlorine	4.0
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F	0.020
Appearance	Very slightly opalescent. Extremely minute trace of suspended matter.
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None
pH Value	7.7
Hardness before boiling	13.0°
Hardness after boiling	7.7°
Temporary hardness	5.3°
Bacteriological :—	
Probable number of coliform bacilli, Mac-Conkey 2 days 37° C	Nil per 100 ml.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

During the year periodical inspections were made of the various streams and watercourses in the area.

Seven samples of water were taken—four of these from points where the final effluents from the different sewage disposal works enter the various watercourses.

All these samples were submitted for chemical analysis, and the reports, with the exception of one, were all satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

THE ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947

Ices and Ice-Cream

The registered premises for the manufacture and/or sale of ice cream in the area are :—

Premises registered for manufacture of ice-cream by the hot-mix method	3

Premises registered for manufacture of ice-cream by the cold-mix method 6
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream 60

Of the 60 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream, practically all the ice-cream sold is in cartons or wrapped blocks and is stored in refrigerators.

During the year 110 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. Particulars of these are as follows:—

Total number of samples taken—
Bacteriological 63
Chemical 47
Total number of samples taken from premises registered by the Urban District Council for manufacture and sale ... 33
Total number of samples taken from premises registered by the Urban District Council for sale only 77
Total number of samples manufactured by the Hot Mix method 16
Total number of samples manufactured by the Cold Mix method 17
Total number of samples where the method of manufacture was not known (ice-cream manufactured outside the Urban District) 77

The samples taken for bacteriological examination fell into the following Provisional Grades:—

	Number of Samples.	
	Manufactured in District	Manufactured outside District
Grade One	7	15
Grade Two	6	8
Grade Three	2	4
Grade Four	4	17

One sample of "Frozen Lollie" was taken. No prohibited colour was present, nor were any coliform organisms present in 1 c.c.

The premises where ice-cream is manufactured are visited every week and are found to be kept in a very clean condition. The walls, floors and plant in each one is kept in good and clean order. There is also provided adequate washing facilities; hot and

cold water is laid on over every wash-basin; soap, nail brushes and towels are provided for the benefit of persons employed. The ice-cream shops are visited frequently, and the majority of shops sell ice-cream in pre-packed cartons. Each shop has installed an electric refrigerator, which are inspected and found satisfactory.

The travelling ice-cream vendor calls for some attention—there are numerous vans coming into the area from outside, and these are inspected when seen in the streets.

The vans belonging to vendors in our area are kept under observation at all times, whether in the streets or in the garages. They all have washing facilities, soap and towels provided, and the vans have been found to be clean inside and the outsides have been made clean and look very attractive.

Ice-cream is a food which is consumed all the year round, and it is most essential that it shall be manufactured with good ingredients, in good clean utensils and surroundings and retailed until the best hygienic conditions—it is a food which is consumed by all, both young and old.

MILK

There are twenty-three registered milk producers on the register; these are set out in the following table :—

Wholesalers	14
Wholesalers and Retailers	3
Retailers	6

The number of milking cows kept is approximately 282, or an average of 12 cows per farm. These 23 milk producers consist of 10 producers with Accredited licences, one producer with a Tuberculin Tested licence, and 12 producers of ordinary raw milk. There are 71 dairies and milk shops in this area, also 16 retail producers of milk who deliver milk in this area but whose premises are outside this area.

During the year the number of samples of milk taken and submitted for bacteriological examination is as follows :—

Producers in the area	78
Retailers in the area	115
Retailers from outside the area... ...	11

The results of the examination of these samples are as follows:—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Producers in the area	53	25
Retailers in the area	80	35
Retailers from outside the area ...	10	1

In cases where samples of milk, taken from retailers whose milk is produced in the area, or from farms, prove unsatisfactory, visits are made to the farms during the time of milking and split samples are taken to ascertain where the milk proves unsatisfactory.

These split samples are taken as follows and are submitted for bacteriological examination the same morning: direct from the cow; from the milking pail; cooler; and churn.

When the results of the examinations are known, the producer is interviewed and informed of the results. If an adverse report is received, the producer is interviewed and the whole matter discussed; also the utensils and sterilising outfits are examined.

The producers are willing to co-operate and carry out any suggestions that might be made for bringing about better milk supply.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILIZED) REGULATIONS, 1949

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

The following licences have been granted to sell the undermentioned designated milks:—

Tuberculin Tested	22
Accredited	1
Pasteurised	17
Pasteuriser's Licence	1

SHOPS ACTS, 1919 TO 1938

Observations have been made in various parts of the area during the evenings, Sundays and on the official half-day closing, to ascertain if the closing hours are being carried out. It has been necessary in certain cases to report to the Public Health Committee contraventions found, and in cases of first offenders warning letters have been sent; in many instances these letters have proved to be successful.

Inspections of sanitary and washing facilities have been carried out and a number of improvements have been requested, such as limewashing walls of water closets and repairing or renewing flushing apparatus.

OFFICES

There are approximately 52 offices in the area. The sanitary accommodation and washing facilities have been inspected and in certain cases improvements to lighting and cleansing of walls have been called for and carried out.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The factories in the area are visited periodically; there are 133 factories on the register, including factory bakehouses.

The sanitary accommodation and washing facilities are inspected, and these have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

1.—Inspection of factories made for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	33	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies:				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	119	238	24	—
(b) Others	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	133	271	29	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	6	6	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature	1	...	1	...	...
Inadequate ventilation	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary conveniences:					
(a) insufficient ..	6	3	...	1	...
(b) unsuitable or defective	11	9	1	2	...
(c) not separate for sexes	3	2	...	...	...
Other offences (not including offences in relation to homework)	2	2	...	...	...
Total	29	22*	2	3	...

* Of the outstanding seven, work is either in hand, plans are being prepared or considered by the Council, or representations are still being made to the firms concerned.

OUTWORKERS

One list of outworkers has been received during the year.

BAKEHOUSES

Visits have been made to these premises, and the following matters were reported upon and dealt with:—

Walls and ceilings of bakehouses cleansed ...	21
Walls and ceilings of rest rooms cleansed ...	1
Bakehouses enlarged	3
New ovens provided	1
Accumulations of refuse removed	3
Floors cleansed	4
Doors cleansed	2
Yards cleansed	2
New sanitary accommodation	1
Approach to bakehouse paved	1

CAMP SITE

There is only one camp site in the area—at Beaudesert Park, Cannock Wood; it is used chiefly by members of the Scout movement.

The water supply, sanitation and drainage are satisfactory, and on inspection the camp was found to be kept clean and tidy.

SPOILBANKS

Observations have been made on the various spoilbanks in the area, and it was necessary to call the attention of the National Coal Board to the emission of smoke and gases from two of their spoilbanks. Some endeavour was made to deal with these matters, but the spoilbanks were getting too large in size and therefore became out of hand as regards the question of abating the nuisance. At one colliery the spoilbank ceased to be used, and no further nuisance from smoke was observed.

It seems a great pity that our countryside should be spoilt by these huge pyramids of waste matter, but it is a question of what can be done to deal with all this waste matter which is brought up from the pits.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLUTION

During 1949, work in connection with the investigation of atmospheric pollution was commenced by this Council. This investigation, which is co-operative in its very nature, has for its object the obtaining of exact information about the nature and extent of atmospheric pollution. Results of analyses and concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide are submitted monthly to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Greenwich. Unless a considerable number of authorities take part in the observations, using the standard methods and appliances, the data is inadequate.

The following appliances are now fixed and operating in various parts of the Urban Area:—One Deposit Gauge, six Lead Peroxide Apparatus, and one combined Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus.

Deposit Gauge and Lead Peroxide Apparatus

The average (monthly) results of the analyses of the deposit gauge bottle and the six lead peroxide porcelain cylinders which were exposed from June to December, 1949, are set out below. The table shows (1) the rainfall, (2) total solid deposited matter—in tons per square mile, and (3) observations of sulphur dioxide by the lead peroxide method—milligrammes of SO^3 per day per 100 sq. cm.

Stations	Rainfall m.m.	Ttl. Solids (tons per sq. mile)	SO^3 mg/day/100 cm2 of lead peroxide
85 Watling Street, Bridgtown ..	48.7	13.29	—
112 Watling Street, Bridgtown ..	—	—	1.08
Cannock Park	—	—	0.93
846 Cannock Road, Pye Green ..	—	—	1.00
Hednesford Park	—	—	1.15
4 Hawthorne Road, Wimblebury ..	—	—	1.52
30 Oxford Road, Rumer Hill ..	—	—	1.84

Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus

The following table shows the average (monthly) concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide during the period June to December, 1949:—

	Milligrammes per cub. metre		Parts per million
Smoke—		Sulphur Dioxide—	
Average	.076	Average	.025
Highest	.167	Highest	.066
Lowest	.027	Lowest	.006

The smoke filters obtained by means of this instrument are sent each month to the Department of Pathology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, where they are used in the work of cancer research.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Engineer and Surveyor has kindly furnished the following particulars respecting the work of public cleansing carried out in the area.

The following is a list of refuse tips owned by the Council, with notes on condition and estimated life, together with other items of interest:—

Littleworth Clayhole.—This has been used extensively during the year. Space available for controlled tipping for approximately five years. Condition: Good levels maintained, and well soiled.

Heath Hayes.—Used only for the immediate neighbourhood and to be handed over to the Parks Department for conversion to playing field. Life, six months. Condition: Levels somewhat irregular and further soiling required.

Princess Street.—Ceased tipping operations during the year; now under construction as a memorial for the Festival of Britain, as a sports stadium.

Hawkes Green.—Tipping operations recommenced during the year to make good the depressions left after the relaying of a main outfall sewer through the land. Space available for one to two years' tipping to new levels which are at present irregular. Considerable soiling ultimately required.

Old Fallow disused gravel pit.—No tipping operations during 1949, but plans under consideration for further levelling and soiling to make site suitable for use as a playing field. This will be done in conjunction with tipping of refuse after soil stripping on a site immediately adjoining and which will then form one complete playing field. The extended life of this tip will be approximately two years.

Refuse Collection Generally.—Four 7 cub. yard capacity side loading and one 10 cub. yard similar type vehicles have been in constant use for the collection of house and trade refuse during the year. These vehicles are of new design, the ages of which range from 1946 to one supplied during 1949. In addition, an old 1938 model 7 cub. yard vehicle has been in use as required. A further 7 cub. yard vehicle to replace this is to be obtained during 1950.

The interval of collection of household refuse was maintained generally at seven days.

Cesspools and Gully Cleansing.—The 750 galls. capacity cesspool emptier has been fully engaged on emptying of cesspools in the Cannock Wood and Pye Green areas, and has also been utilised for periodical sewer flushing. The heavy commitments on this class of work have prevented the use of this vehicle on street gully cleansing, which work is still undertaken by manual labour. It is hoped, however, that a further cesspool vehicle will be brought into commission in 1950, and so facilitate the mechanical emptying of street gullies and improve the standard of public cleansing generally.

Scavenging.—A special motor vehicle of 25 cwt. capacity was purchased during the year for street scavenging along with bin truck orderlies. This has meant an appreciable improvement on this work, which will be more evident when the mechanical emptying of street gullies is accomplished.

CONCLUSION

The work of the department has been exceedingly heavy during the year. House-to-house inspection has taken up a considerable amount of the Inspectors' time, and food premises have called for extensive inspection and reports. Factories are increasing in number and these are visited very frequently.

I again pay tribute to the continued help and support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, also to those Members of the Council who are not Members of the Public Health Committee. I wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Webster) and the staff of the Public Health (Sanitary) Department, who have at all times been most co-operative, for their help and assistance in the work of the Department.

I also thank the Chief Officials of the Council for assisting me in matters affecting my Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Printed at the
Cannock Chase Courier,
3 Wolverhampton Road,
Cannock